

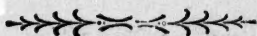
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CONSTITUTION
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RULES OF DEBATE
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"WITNESS" PRINTING HOUSE, ST. JAMES STREET,
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MONTREAL
Parliamentary Debating Society.

SECOND SESSION, 1885-86.

OFFICE-BEARERS.

President :

EDGAR JUDGE.

Vice-President :

J. H. N. RICHARD.

Hon. Secretary :

J. A. BOYD.

Hon. Treasurer :

E. J. BEDARD.

Speaker :

MATTHEW HUTCHINSON,

Deputy Speaker :

P. G. MARTINEAU.

Clerk of the House :

Sergeant-at-Arms :

J. GOLDBERG.

Council :

T. H. RUSSELL.

A. P. McDONALD.

R. W. McLACHLAN.

H. GERIN-LAJOIE.

R. DANDURAND.

JAMES HARPER.

E. W. BEUTHNER.

E. J. CHAMBERS.

PREFACE.

The Revised Constitution and Rules of Debate were adopted at the Second Annual Meeting of the Society, held in the Natural History Society Hall, on Tuesday Evening, October 13th, 1885. The Council desires to impress upon every member the fact that the success of the Society in a great measure depends upon a strict observance of these rules. Members are accordingly requested to read them carefully, and to comply with them on all occasions.

CONSTITUTION.

I.—NAME AND OBJECT.

This Society shall be called the "MONTREAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETY," and its object shall be the promotion of the art of public speaking.

II.—MEMBERSHIP.

Membership shall be open to all on payment of an annual subscription of one dollar, and a member shall be entitled to take his seat in the House after being proposed and seconded. (The payment of two dollars shall entitle to honorary membership).

III.—OFFICERS.

The Officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Speaker, Deputy-Speaker, Clerk of the House and Sergeant-at-Arms, who shall be elected at every annual general meeting to serve for one year, but shall be eligible for re-election.

IV.—COUNCIL.

The Officers, together with the Premier and Leader of the Opposition for the time being, and eight others to be chosen annually from among the members, shall constitute a Council, by whom

all the business and other affairs of the Society shall be regulated, except as hereinafter prescribed. The Council shall have the power to fill all vacancies occurring in its body during the session.

V.—MODE OF PROCEDURE.

The ordinary meetings of the Society shall be governed by the rules of the Dominion House of Commons, as far as practicable, and by such special "Rules of Debate" as may be, from time to time, adopted by a majority of the members at the annual or a special general meeting. Every ordinary meeting shall be presided over by the Speaker, or in his absence the Deputy-Speaker, and it shall be his duty to follow the methods of the House of Commons as closely as possible in every form of procedure not otherwise prescribed for herein.

VI.—DURATION OF SESSION, ETC.

The Society shall meet weekly from October to April, inclusive, at such place and on such nights as may be determined by the Council, but, at the will of the House, extra meetings (for debate on adjourned business only) shall be held at any time.

VII.—MEMBERSHIP FEE.

The annual membership fee shall be one dollar, and shall be payable upon election, or at the commencement of every session.

VIII.—DUTIES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The leaders of the political party having a numerical majority in the House shall form a Government, and shall arrange the business to be brought before the House at each session, giving due consideration and precedence to the motions of private members. It shall be the duty of the Government to resign office immediately after defeat upon any measure or resolution introduced by them officially or to which they have given their official support, or upon any vote showing a want of confidence ; they shall then be succeeded in office by the opposite party.

IX.—ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The order of business at every session of this House, except extra sessions, shall be as follows:—

1. Questions to Ministers and notices of questions.
2. Proposal of new members.
3. Notices of motion.
4. Orders of the day.

X.—ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held on the second Tuesday in the month of October of every year, when the Officers will be elected, and other regular business transacted.

RULES OF DEBATE.

I.—DURATION OF MEETINGS.

The Speaker shall take the chair and call the House to order at 8 o'clock sharp. The debate shall close at 10.15 o'clock, when a division shall be taken, unless the House adjourns upon a motion (which shall be without debate) or by consent.

II.—LENGTH OF SPEECHES.

The proposer of any measure or resolution shall be allowed twenty minutes, and every other speaker ten minutes to address the House. This rule must be strictly adhered to, and no member shall, under any circumstances, address the House longer than the specified time, unless by the special consent of the House.

III.—MODE OF ADDRESSING.

Every member desiring to speak shall rise in his place, uncovered, and address himself to Mr. Speaker.

IV.—THE RIGHT TO SPEAK.

When two or more members rise to speak, the Speaker shall call upon the member whom he first notices, to address the House.

V.—CALLING TO ORDER.

A member called to order shall immediately sit down.

VI.—THE SPEAKER'S DECISION FINAL.

The decision of the Speaker upon all matters shall be final, and without appeal.

VII.—SPEAKING TWICE.

No member may speak twice to a question. A reply of five minutes only will be allowed to a member who has made a substantive motion.

VIII.—ORDER TO BE MAINTAINED.

When the Speaker is putting a question every member shall retain his seat. When a member is speaking, no other member shall interrupt him, except to order.

IX.—MOTION TO ADJOURN.

A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, but no second motion to the same effect shall be made until after some intermediate proceeding shall have been had.

X.—WANT OF CONFIDENCE MOTION.

A want of confidence motion shall express the specific matter upon which it is based, and the debate must be confined to that matter.

XI.—DIVISIONS.

Divisions upon all questions shall be taken by the Speaker, in such manner as he may think fit, without tellers. If the leader of a recognized party in the House desires to have a division taken by call of the roll, he may require this to be done, but he must do so prior to the division.

XII.—THE CHAIR—EXPLANATORY.

In the absence of the Speaker and Deputy-Speaker, the House shall elect one of its members to take the chair, and the term Speaker in the foregoing rules shall be understood to mean the actual occupant of the chair at any meeting. The parliamentary rules on first, second and third readings of bills, and on Committees of the whole, shall not apply to the proceedings of this Society.



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